

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2190

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SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S ADDRESS
AT BERGNEUSTADT CONFERENCE, MAY 24

REFERENCE: STRAUS-EISENSTADT TELECON

AS REQUESTED, WE ARE PROVIDING HERewith SOME POINTS WHICH ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON MAY LIKE TO INCORPORATE INTO HIS BERGNEUSTADT ADDRESS ON US-FRG CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION.

1. THERE IS DESPITE OCCASIONAL DIFFERENCES IN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AREAS A GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE DEVELOPING BETWEEN OUR TWO SOCIETIES. THE WEB OF TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, MOST OF THEM ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT CHANNELS, IS INCREDIBLY DIVERSE AND COMPLEX AND BECOMING EVERY YEAR MORE DIVERSE AND COMPLEX. IN THE PROBLEMS WE FACE, OUR TWO SOCIETIES HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY SIMILAR; TO UNDERSTAND THESE PROBLEMS AND WORK TOWARD THEIR SOLUTIONS, WE CAN BENEFIT IMMENSELY FROM EXCHANGING AND SHARING OUR EXPERIENCES AND THOUGHTS AND FROM POOLING OUR KNOWLEDGE. HERE LIES THE GREATEST CHALLENGE TO EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THE YEARS TO COME.

2. IN FACING THIS CHALLENGE, IT BEHOOVES US NOT TO
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LOOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE FRG IS PART OF A EUROPE

WHICH IS GROWING GRADUALLY CLOSER TOGETHER. HENCE WE SHOULD INCREASINGLY VIEW US-FRG CULTURAL RELATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS.

3. THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING EXCHANGE PROGRAMS MUST RESPOND TO NEW TRENDS IN OUR TWO SOCIETIES. THESE ARE PARTLY ATTITUDINAL: MANY OF THE YOUNGER LEADERS IN EUROPE APPEAR TO BE LESS CONVINCED OF THE VALUE OF STRONG MUTUAL TIES BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE USA THAN IN FORMER YEARS; WHILE MANY OF OUR BEST YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE US ARE OFTEN SO PREOCCUPIED WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS THAT THEY OVERLOOK THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPONENT OF CONTEMPORARY SOCIETAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS. BUT THESE NEW TRENDS ARE ALSO SOCIO-CULTURAL IN NATURE, REQUIRING US TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN THE NEEDS OF VARIOUS SOCIAL GROUPS AND TO EDUCATIONAL CHANGES AND REFORMS TAKING PLACE. WE SEE SUCH CHANGES MAINLY IN THESE AREAS: EXPANSION OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS OF LOWER INCOME GROUPS, WOMEN AND MINORITIES; INCREASING NEED FOR OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA OF CONTINUING (OR RECURRING) EDUCATION; INCREASING NEED TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPERTS AND SPECIALISTS TO CONSULT WITH COLLEAGUES AND GAIN COMPARATIVE EXPERIENCES. ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE AFFECTING INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES. ONE ASPECT OF THESE TRENDS IS THAT THERE IS DEVELOPING A GREATER NEED TO INCLUDE NON-ACADEMIC PERSONS IN EXCHANGES; THERE MAY HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON ACADEMIC EXCHANGES IN THE PAST.

4. IN THE PROGRAMS WE ADMINISTER, WE SEEK AND STRESS MUTUALITY OF UNDERSTANDING AND BENEFIT. AN AMERICAN COMING TO GERMANY, EVEN IF HE COMES AS A LECTURER OR SPEAKER, HAS AS MUCH TO LEARN AS TO GIVE. WE FEEL WE HAVE AT TIMES IN THE PAST TENDED TO NEGLECT THIS PRINCIPLE AND ARE NOW DETERMINED TO HAVE IT PERMEATE ALL OUR OPERATIONS. EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS ARE A TWO-WAY AFFAIR.

5. IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE FRG, THERE HAS DEVELOPED
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A STRONG TRADITION OF BINATIONALISM, BEST EXEMPLIFIED BY THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM AND THE PATTERN OF ANNUAL INFORMAL BINATIONAL CULTURAL TALKS WE HAVE DEVELOPED. THIS IS WORKING EXTREMELY WELL AND HAS RESULTED IN PROGRAM ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE PROBABLY, IN TERMS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND BENEFIT, MORE EFFECTIVE THAN HAD THEY BEEN PLANNED AND EXECUTED BY EACH COUNTRY SEPARATELY. IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO BRING SOME OF THIS SPIRIT OF

BINATIONALISM INTO THE VISITORS PROGRAMS WHICH BOTH OUR
GOVERNMENTS RUN INDEPENDENTLY OF EACH OTHER.

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6. WE GREATLY WELCOME THE GERMAN INITIATIVES IN THE
FIELD OF CULTURAL COOPERATION ANNOUNCED BY CHANCELLOR
BRANDT IN JUNE 1972. SINCE THEN THEY HAVE ALL BECOME
FULLY OPERATIONAL AND ARE DEMONSTRATING THE WISDOM OF
THE DECISIONS THAT LED TO THESE INITIATIVES. PARTICU-
LARLY FARSIGHTED, WE BELIEVE, WAS THE CREATING OF THE
GERMAN MARSHALL FUND IN THE U.S. WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON
UNDERSTANDING, AND TRYING TO COPE WITH, THE PROBLEMS
OF INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES THROUGH A SHARING OF THOUGHT,
KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES.

7. WE WATCH WITH INTEREST THE PROJECTS WHICH BEGIN TO
EVOLVE IN RESPONSE TO DR. SCHWARZ-SCHILLING 'S PROPOSAL
TO ORGANIZE A "BIG LIFT OF GERMAN STUDENTS TO STUDY
3 - 5 YEARS AT AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE WOULD WELCOME SUCH A LARGE ADDITIO-
NAL INFLUX OF GERMAN STUDENTS INTO OUR INSTITUTIONS AND
BELIEVE THAT THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT OPEN SPACES IN
POTENTIALLY INTERESTED COLLEGES OF HIGH QUALITY TO PRO-
VIDE THEM WITH AN EDUCATION THAT IN TOTO WOULD CONSTI-

TUTE AS VALUABLE A CONTRIBUTION TO GERMAN SOCIETY AS
THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE TO AMERICAN SOCIETY.
WE BELIEVE SUCH A SCHEME COULD INCREASE TO A CONSIDER-
ABLE DEGREE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT WHICH WE
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KNOW FLOWS FROM SUCH YOUTH EXCHANGES; IT COULD HAVE IN
THE LONG RUN A SINGULARLY BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON US-FRG
RELATIONS. BUT WE REALIZE THAT THE FISCAL AND EDU-
CATIONAL OBSTACLES THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE OVERCOME TO
CREATE SUCH A BIG LIFT OF STUDENTS TO THE U.S. ARE FAR,
FAR GREATER IN GERMANY THAN IN AMERICA, AND THAT HENCE,
FOR THE TIME BEING, IT LOOKS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH A
MASSIVE PROGRAM CAN BE INITIATED. BUT WE ARE PLEASED
TO KNOW THAT ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS, EACH
DESIGNED TO BRING SEVERAL HUNDRED GERMAN STUDENTS
TO
AMERICA, ARE APPROACHING THE IMPLEMENTATION STAGE AND
WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST WITH THEIR IMPLEMENTATION TO
THE EXTENT OUR RESOURCES PERMIT.

8. THERE HAS IN RECENT YEARS BEEN A MARKED GROWTH OF
"VOLUNTARY VISITORS" CROSSING THE ATLANTIC, PARTICULAR-
THE USA. THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IS LIKELY TO
PRODUCE AN EVEN GREATER RATE OF INCREASE. MANY OF THESE
VOLUNTARY VISITORS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS DESIRE PERSONAL
IF NOT PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS IN THE HOST COUNTRY.
MUTUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES BENEFIT
WHENEVER SUCH CONTACTS CAN BE FACILITATED. HENCE THERE
IS A GROWING NEED FOR DEVELOPING OR STRENGTHENING
SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS SET UP TO ASSIST THE VOLUNTARY
VISITORS WITH CONTACTS.

9. THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND THE MANY BICEN-
TENNIAL-RELATED EVENTS BEING PLANNED FOR 1976 IN THE US
AND ABROAD WILL OFFER UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENG-
THENING TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION TO
ACTUAL USIS PROGRAMS DEVOTED TO BICENTENNIAL THEMES, WE
ARE STRIVING TO DEVELOP GREATER PRIVATE-SECTOR INVOLVE-
MENT IN CULTURAL PROGRAMING, INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY
AMERICAN MINORITY GROUPS, NEW APPROACHES TO AMERICAN
STUDIES STRESSING COMPARATIVE STUDIES (AN INTERNATIONAL
AMERICA STUDIES BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE IS PLANNED BY
US ACADEMIC SOCIETIES FOR JUNE 1976 IN WASHINGTON),
AND GREATER EMPHASIS ON FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES INVOLVING
FORMER PARTICIPANTS IN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. ON JULY 2,
1973, THE USG FORMALLY EXTENDED TO THE FRG AN INVITATION
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FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE USG TO JOIN IN COMMEMORATING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY. IN THIS INVITATION WE EXPRESSED OUR HOPE "THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES CAN USE THE OCCASION TO FOSTER NOT ONLY PERSONAL CONTACTS BUT THE WIDEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF FRUITFUL INTERCHANGE AMONG PEOPLE IN THE REALMS BOTH OF IDEAS AND OF ACTIONS." WE ARE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THE FRG IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UP ON THIS INVITATION, HAS IN FACT APPOINTED A COORDINATOR FOR BICENTENNIAL AFFAIRS; AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CLOSE COOPERATION ON BICENTENNIAL-RELATED PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.
HILLENBRAND

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